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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

26 April 1968

East German Travel Ban Snares Berlin Mayor

The East Germans have modestly escalated their harassment of West German official travel to and from Berlin by turning back Berlin Governing Mayor Schuetz. A prominent public figure, as Berlin's mayor, Schuetz is also concurrently the president of the Bundesrat in Bonn, i.e. a "higher-official" of the Federal Republic in the terms of the ban announced by the East Germans on 13 April. The action against Schuetz comes after the Allies delivered a statement to the Soviets in East Berlin on 19 April protesting the ban and reminding them of Moscow's responsibility to maintain "normal" functioning of Autobahn traffic.

US Ambassador McGhee in Bonn has called for the immediate preparation of a list of possible countermeasures, there has been no Allied or FRG decision on appropriate action. Mayor Schuetz has suggested a probe using an Allied military train carrying a Bonn minister to demonstrate our refusal to accept the GDR ban.

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Czechoslovaks Call For Open and Non-Binding Conference

Czechoslovakia's delegate to the Budapest preparatory conference, Josef Lenart, has challenged the Soviet view that the communist parties attending the world communist conference in Moscow must adopt a common stand in the joint struggle against imperialism.

Lenart informed the Budapest conference that the Czechoslovak party does not regard the world conference as "a formal act, at which communist parties would pledge their verbal support for the common aims of the anti-imperialist struggle." Lenart also called for a "broad public discussion" before and during the conference rather than the formulation of new documents behind closed doors. He suggested that the preparatory conferences publish several documents, thus implying that differences of opinion should be aired.

Lenart also specifically called on the meeting to "take all necessary steps" toward opening the participation at Moscow of those parties which have not attended the Budapest meetings.

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Lenart's statement largely reiterated the views expressed on 21 April by the Czechoslovak party daily, which were later contradicted by Moscow Radio. The Soviets said the Budapest meeting should draft proposals for "united action" by all parties and for "cohesion" among all anti-imperialist parties. Lenart's speech was publicized by the Czech news agency, but was not released by the Hungarian authorities.

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Attendance Sags at World Communist Conference Preparatory Meeting

By Embassy count, only 50 of the 87 parties invited to the World Communist Conference Preparatory Meeting have sent representatives to Budapest. It now appears that attendance will probably not approach the 66 delegation-mark set during the February Budapest consultative meeting.

A complete list of attendees is not yet available. Some mini-parties, whose representatives would only be on the fringe of discussion, may have been deterred by budgetary considerations. The Soviet's hard line display at the February meeting and the increasing belief that Moscow will try to use the conference against the Chinese and other heretics may have kept away other parties.

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Poland's Rapacki Has Not Yet Resigned

A Polish Foreign Ministry official categorically denied on 24 April an earlier Yugoslav news agency report that Polish Foreign Minister Rapacki has resigned.

Since early this month, the 58-year old and ailing Rapacki has been absent from his duties at the ministry, which have been assumed by veteran Deputy Foreign Minister Winiewicz. Rapacki has had several serious heart attacks during the past few years, and has been reported on the verge of resigning many times. He has hung on tenaciously, however

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Rapacki's political health, however, has been rapidly deteriorating, and it is likely that he will never resume his duties. He reportedly put up a spirited defense of both his deputies, Winiewicz and Naszkowski, against a recent attack by party hardliners seeking their ouster. Although he has

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evidently been able to save Winiewicz, the Jewish Naszkowski reportedly has been forcefully ousted from the ministry.

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Yugoslavs Reassert Desire For Improved Relations with Albania

A recent speech by Vice President of the Yugoslav Federal Assembly Dzavid Nimani seems designed to reassure Albania of Belgrade's continued desire to improve relations.

Nimani reiterated Yugoslavia's continued interest in having "not only normal, but friendly" relations with Albania in a 21 April speech in Prizren, a town in Yugoslavia's predominantly Albanian autonomous province of Kosovo-Methoija. Nimani pointed to recent moves in developing trade between the two countries as steps toward improving Yugoslav-Albanian relations.

Belgrade apparently felt that a restatement of its views on this issue was in order following the recent trial and conviction of five Albanians accused of being agents of the Hoxha regime. The trial predictably prompted a bitter and sharp reaction in Tirana which has overshadowed other indications of improved bilateral relations.

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Tito To Visit Moscow

Yugoslav President Tito will pay a short visit to Moscow after leaving Iran on 28 April, according to radio Moscow. The visit was not part of Tito's original itinerary

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for his Asian tour. The Marshal probably will inform the Soviets about his discussions in Japan and Iran and sound out Brezhnev about Soviet views on events in Czechoslovakia and Poland. Yugoslavia's refusal to attend the Budapest preparatory meeting probably also will be discussed.

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Czechoslovak Journalists Demand End to Political Censorship

Czechoslovak journalists have once again demanded that all political censorship, as well as the Central Publications Board (the censor's office) be abolished.

On 23 April the presidium of the Union of Czechoslovak Journalists passed a resolution to this effect, also charging that the press law has not yet been amended nor has the union been given an opportunity to participate in preparatory work on the new law as an equal partner. The resolution was sent to the National Assembly and to the Ministry of Cultural and Information.

The ministry has rejected the journalists' complaint, noting that "complex amendments" to the press law were being drafted and that the union had been invited on 13 March to submit its recommendations concerning the law.

The journalists apparently are seeking a law under which an editor could be prosecuted if state secrets were intentionally published. As a result of an informal agreement reached in February with the authorities, editors are proceeding on this basis, and as yet there have been no prosecutions.

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NOTE: THE VIEWS EXPRESSED ABOVE REPRESENT
ONLY THE ANALYSIS OF THE EE DIVISION

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